

Footprints

on the sands of time....

ISSUE XXXXV

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ISSUE XXXXV

SPRING 2001



Photo by Randy Nelson

H.B. Kennedy Home on Sunset Avenue Southwest will be on this year's Homes with History Tour

Homes with History Tour

The ninth Homes with History Tour will be presented by the Southwest Seattle Historical Society Saturday, May 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. As in past years, the tour will be preceded by opening ceremonies at the Log House Museum at 9 a.m.

Clay Eals will be master of ceremonies, and **Jan Zabel**, dressed in costume of the early 20th century, will sing and play guitar. Bagels, juice and coffee will be served.

The tour includes a broad array of early 20th century buildings that illustrate the development of West Seattle – The Log House Museum, a remnant of Alki's first year-round residence; a grand residence on Sunset Avenue, three Craftsman homes, a Dutch Colonial, one of the Fauntleroy area's oldest buildings recently remodeled into a coffee house and restaurant, and The Villa Heidelberg Bed and Breakfast Inn.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Trustees plan for growth

Footprints is the official publication of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society.

One of SWSHS's major projects is the Birthplace of Seattle Log House Museum, located at 3003 61st Ave. S.W. Seattle, WA 98116 (one block south of the Statue of Liberty on Alki Beach)

*Phone
(206) 938-5293*

*Current exhibit:
"The Spirit Returns"*

The Board of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society had a planning retreat on Saturday, March 31, at The Pacific Institute Building on Harbor Avenue Southwest, thanks to the co-founders **Diane** and **Lou Tice**, longtime Society supporters.

The officers and trustees, with board member **Shirley Tupper** facilitating, worked from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to assess the Southwest Seattle Historical Society and Log House Museum as they are now, to make a plan to guide us to where we want the Society and the Museum to be in three years, and to set the strategies to achieve those goals.

The Society, founded in 1984, and the Log House Museum, which opened nearly four years ago, have grown in stature within the broader community. It is important for us to see how we can maintain that stature and still continue to grow.

Some of the areas that take priority in planning are to set up the database and collections records; to get the new web site up

and running; to expand the volunteer base to accommodate the increased visitation to the Museum by calling upon members of the Society and the community at large for help; to expand our membership; and to plan funding for the operating expenses of the Museum, which are ongoing. An endowment fund is being established where bequests and memorial gifts would give us a stable base in the future. We need to maintain our programs and add to our collections. It takes community involvement to collect and preserve the history of the Southwest Seattle area.

These are a part of the goals the Board has set for a three-year plan. The Board will be looking at long-term planning and within that plan; applying for and achieving accreditation would be a goal of the museum.

The comfortable surroundings and beautiful view out over Elliott Bay made the work seem to go more easily, and we finished with a sense of accomplishment.

—Joan Mraz, SWSHS president

Spring-Summer Calendar

April 26-May 6

Museum closed for structural repairs.

May 3

SWSHS Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., South Seattle Community College.

May 10

No Speaker Series scheduled do to museum construction.

May 12

Homes with History Tour, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; opening ceremonies 9 a.m. at Log House Museum.

May 17

Long-Timer meeting, 1 p.m., Log House Museum.

May 29

Association of King County Historical Organizations Awards, Museum of History and Industry,

9:30 a.m.

June 7

Trade Bead Necklace Workshop, 3:30 p.m., Log House Museum. Call for registration; \$5 covers materials and museum tour; all ages.

SWSHS Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., South Seattle Community College.

June 14

Speaker Series, 7:15 p.m., Log House Museum; Duwamish Tribal Chair, Cecile Hansen on "Duwamish Recognition."

June 21

No Long-Timer meeting.

July 5

SWSHS Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m. South Seattle Community College.

July 12

Speaker Series, 7:15 p.m., "Looking Back at Hi-Yu and the Seafair Pirates' annual landing at Alki Beach."

July 19

No Long-Timer meeting.

August 2

SWSHS Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., South Seattle Community College.

August 9

Speaker Series, 7:15 p.m.; speaker to be announced.

August 16

Long-Timer meeting and celebration to unveil the Business Book, 1 p.m., Log House Museum.

Quake shakes office, doesn't stir exhibit



Museum Director Pat Filer covers her eyes after the earthquake shook things loose in office, storage spaces.

The Log House Museum made it through the Ash Wednesday Earthquake with relatively little damage. The exhibits were unscathed with the exception of the tuxedo-clad manikin, which had pitched forward in its case and came to rest against the Plexiglas.

Upstairs and in the gift shop, however, it took the rest of the day to pick up and reorganize the books, papers, files and merchandise that were strewn on the floors. **Pat Filer, Carol Vincent** and **Joan Mraz** pitched in until everything was put away.

Some small plaster chunks fell from the old chimney stack in the video room and some new cracks have appeared. Representatives of Leavengood Architects have surveyed the building with their structural engineer to see if anything else needs to be done when the ceiling logs are shored up.

I was in the drugstore on California Avenue near James Madison when Lafayette School tumbled down (in the earthquake of 1949). Things were flying all over in the drugstore, and then a huge cloud of dust just rolled up the avenue. At this point the old druggist lost it. He just kept saying over and over "The world is coming to an end!" I was more afraid of the druggist than I was of the earthquake.

— Camille Peters

Log House survived '65, too

SWSHS Trustee Marcy Johnsen grew up in what is now the Log House Museum. She remembers the earthquake of 1965.

For some reason, I had stayed home from seventh grade at James Madison Junior High that day and was watching TV. My 2-year-old brother Chris was playing on the floor in the area left of the fireplace.

Sometime after 8:30 a.m., there was a strange noise like thunder, and then a violent shaking of the house. Things started falling off the plate rail in the living room, and pictures on the wall rattled and fell. I could hear dishes crashing and breaking in the kitchen.

I grabbed my brother off the floor as things began to fall around him. Although I heard my mother and father upstairs hollering for us to get under cover, I stood frozen in the living room, watching the bricks of the upper section of the fireplace cave in.

In the kitchen, (now the video room), all but one of the cupboards opened up and emptied

food and dishes onto the countertops and floor.

Our dog Tina, in her bed in the pantry, was pretty scared because Mom's home-canned goods had smashed open – tomatoes, pickles, peaches and pears and lots of broken glass !

My younger sister Denise and older brother Rick soon came home from school. With garden shovels, we filled the garbage cans with broken dishes, spoiled food and ruined items. Dad used the garden hose to wash down the pantry walls and floor of all the messy food.

An inspector explained to my parents that due to its construction, our log house "shook like an orange crate" and would probably withstand an even stronger earthquake. But, as the logs held together tightly, the violent shaking had caused plasterboard and wallpaper to rip and tear.

My folks qualified for a low-interest loan to make the necessary repairs. Instead of replacing the fireplace brick, they built a recessed cabinet, now used for exhibits.

Chester Blackinton, storyteller

Chester A. Blackinton, 84, father of former SWSHS President **Merrilee Hagen**, died April 4 at home in West Seattle.

Born March 6, 1917, on Guemes Island, he grew up there and was captain of the football team and an all-star in football, baseball, basketball and track at Anacortes High School. He received a four-year sports scholarship to the University of Washington and played varsity football as a freshman in a year the Huskies went to the Rose Bowl. He worked at the Boeing Company for 35 years before retiring.

In 1949 he and his wife, **Shirley**, moved to Alki, where they lived for 39 years before

SWSHS accountant will be missed

Richard Larson, the Southwest Seattle Historical Society's certified public accountant, was among the four victims of a shooting in Des Moines in early March. He, his wife, **Jane**, their grandson, **Taelor Marks**, and Taelor's girlfriend, **Josie Peterson**, were found dead in the Larson home March 9.

Mr. Larson graduated from Highline High School in 1955. He lived in California for about 30 years before returning home and opening his accounting business in White Center in 1988.

Lynn Swindlehurst, Society treasurer, remembers Richard as "very warm, helpful, and well mannered, an old fashioned gentleman. He was delightful to work with."

"He was our CPA for 12 years, he did our income taxes for us every year and reports when we needed them. He was knowledgeable, kind and willing to help whenever we had a question or problem. He will be greatly missed," said **Joan Mraz**, who was treasurer of the society for six years.

A memorial service for the Larsons, Taelor and Josie was held at John Knox Presbyterian Church in Normandy Park.

moving to 46th Avenue in West Seattle.

He was a quarter Samish Indian, a member of the Samish Tribal



Chester A. Blackinton

Council for 37 years, and its vice president for several years. Chester and Shirley loaned several family baskets and objects to the Log House Museum for display in "The Spirit Returns" exhibit, currently showing.

His Indian name is Patehus, a very honored name, the same as his great-grandfather Patehus who signed the Point Elliott Treaty. His Samish grandmother gave him that name. Tradition has it that no one can take someone's

[See BLACKINTON, Page 8]

Bernice Moore was Home Tour volunteer

Bernice Menheniott Moore, a founding member of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society, died March 18, 2001, in Seattle.

"She was always very proud of her involvement with the Southwest Seattle Historical Society," said her sister, **Dorothy (Menheniott) Craig** of Newark, Del.

SWSHS Charter Member #84, Bernice was a volunteer for the Homes With History Tour.

"She wanted to be there, even when she had to be picked up and taken," recalls **Carol Vincent**, co-chair of the tour. "She enjoyed the activity and wanted to be a part of it. She was a wonderful volunteer and she will be missed."

Bernice is survived by one son, two daughters, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

My brother Frank was the color guard at the Saturday matinees at the Granada, so we got in free. They'd have a flag salute before the matinee started, and we'd all have to stand and he'd go up on the stage with the flag.

— Margaret Brown

'Chief Seattle' video premier



Photo by Joan Mraz

James Rasmussen, David Buerge at Town Hall 'Chief Seattle' showing.

BJ Bullert, producer/director of the hour-long documentary video "Chief Seattle," was honored by an Indian drumming ceremony before a gala showing of the documentary at Town Hall.

The showing coincided with the broadcast on KCTS-TV Channel 9. The film had been shown at the Seattle Art Museum a few days earlier.

The film portrays the enigmatic qualities of Chief Seattle, a leader of both the Duwamish and Suquamish tribes. Looked up to by the Indians for his leadership and his military skill, he was also a friend to the white settlers and kept friendly relations between the settlers and the Indians.

He was very persuasive and got other Puget Sound chiefs to sign the Point Elliott Treaty in 1854, ceding Indian lands to the whites and providing small reservations for some of the Indians. The speech he purportedly gave at this occasion has become famous for its eloquence.

The Indians had no written language so his words, spoken in Lushootseed, were said to be translated into Chinook Jargon and then into English. More than 30 years later Henry Smith, a journalist, published the speech in the Seattle Star. It is now revered for its wisdom, even though its authenticity is questioned. The wording has been characterized as "Shakespearean" but there is no doubt that the sentiments and principles

were those of Chief Seattle.

Though the treaties had promised to pay the Duwamish for their land, they never were paid, even though they had been friendly and helpful to the settlers. Chief Seattle and his people were eased out of the town that would later be named after him.



B.J. Bullert

A panel discussion followed the Town Hall viewing with **Lyal Bush** from the Washington Commission for the Humanities, Bullert; historians **Alexandra Harmon** and **David Buerge**; **James Rasmussen**, Duwamish Tribal Council; **Cecile Hansen**, Duwamish Tribal Chair; and **Jonathan Raban**, writer. There was a keen interest in the famous speech by Chief Seattle and the panel took many questions about it. All but Raban also participated in a discussion at SAM.

SWSHS president **Joan Mraz** represented the Society and the Museum at both presentations. She handed out information about the Society, membership forms, copies of *Footprints* and exhibit brochures at a table displaying the poster for "The Spirit Returns," the current exhibit.

The Southwest Seattle Historical Society was one of the major donors and the fiscal sponsor of the documentary, which may be seen during museum hours: noon to 6 p.m. Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays and noon to 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

Some 150,000 viewers tuned in to see "Chief Seattle," and the ratings grew as the hour went on. Nearly twice the number of viewers tuned in for that time on KCTS than other comparable times. The ratings started at 3.4 and grew to 4.3 by the end of the hour - an average of 3.9. The average for KCTS is about a rating of 2.2. The show was such a success that it was rebroadcast twice the next week.



Houses on this year's Homes with History tour, 4845 45th Ave. S.W., style homes at 3410 38th

Tour showcases variety of venerable

[Continued from Front Page]

Tickets are \$10 each and are available at The Log House Museum, at Northwest Art & Frame and at the Saffron Cow. They also may be charged by phone only by calling the Log House Museum at (206) 938-5293. Tickets will be on

sale at each home the day of the tour as well. Correct change will be appreciated. All proceeds go to the Southwest Seattle Historical Society.

Homes with History is a self-guided tour. Tour-goers are welcome to visit and tour any or all of the eight sites. A volunteer hostess will check off the location on the ticket, or sell tickets to those who don't have them. Other volunteers will be available to answer questions about the homes. Due to the homeowner's specifications, some areas of the sites may not be open to the public and photographs are not allowed inside the homes.

Visitors will be asked to remove their shoes at each home and to leave large items such as backpacks and strollers in the car or at home.

Details of all sites, photos and a complete map will be found in a special Homes With History Tour section of the West Seattle Herald.

Sponsors of this year's tour are John L. Scott WST,

The Saffron Cow, 9621 45th Ave. S.W., will be open for the tour Saturday, May 12, the day before Mother's Day.





Homes with History Tour are (clockwise from upper left), Villa Heidelberg; the Dutch colonial at 5905 S.W. Douglas Place; and Craftsman- Ave. S.W., 5636 42nd. Ave. S.W. and 3406 38th Ave. S.W.

rable buildings

Washington Title Company, The Pacific Institute, Hecker & Feilberg Escrow, Mariner Mortgage and Northwest Art & Frame.

The tour also showcases the talents of eight area florists and one nursery. Each home will have an arrangement designed especially for that site on the tour as a gift to the owner. The flower arrangements are contributed this year by South End Florist, Admiral Safeway, Admiral Thriftway, Five Corners Nursery, South Seattle Community College, Puget Consumer Co-op, Westwood Town Center QFC and West Seattle Flower Shop.

Juice is being donated by Admiral Safeway, coffee by Starbucks at Alki, bagels by Zatz a Better Bagel.

A committee will start work on next year's Homes with History Tour in the coming months. Anyone who would like to be on the committee and help with the planning, or who knows of a house or other building with historical significance or interest, built prior to 1940, may call the Log House Museum at (206) 938-5293.

This year's planning committee includes **Merrilee Hagen**, and **Carol Vincent** coordinators, **Brooke Best**, **Julie Burrows**, **Joan Mraz**, and **Dorothy Poplawski**.



Photos by Merrilee Hagen and Deborah Mendenhall



Oral history features diversity

The Oral History Project, headed by **JonLee Joseph**, has completed interviews with a diverse group of 30 elders for the current project.

The goal of searching out individuals of diversity has resulted in almost half of the people speaking from various points of view, e.g., Catholic, Yugoslavian-Croatian, Duwamish, Chinese, Japanese, chosen same-sex partner and Jewish.

Sadis and Vaughn was chosen as the videographer for the project. A copy of their video on the Seattle Rainiers Baseball team is available for viewing at the Log House Museum.

Our breadman came once a week to the back door of our home. I think Mom really depended on that service. He was a young married guy with a family. I remember the sad day when Mom told me that he wouldn't be coming back. I don't believe there was any kind of service of that kind after the war.

— *Lois Rogers Luce*

Half of the narrators will be interviewed individually, and culled from that there will be a half hour video film. The themes that are developing are: What were the obstacles in your life, and how have you met them? And what ties you to West Seattle?

SWSHS honored the narrators at an

Eagles were a lifelong fascination

[Continued from Page 4]

name without that person's permission as long as the person lives

His daughter, Merrilee, said he had an affinity for eagles and recalls the story that he told of his experience with the eagle and the fish. He was playing on the beach at Guemes Island with his sisters when they saw an eagle swoop down and catch a big salmon out of the water. The eagle could not lift the fish but it would not let go. The fish kept fighting and the eagle would fall into the water, only to try again to lift the fish and fly away, each time moving closer to the shore. The children ran and grabbed the fish and the eagle and struggled and pulled them onto the beach where the eagle ate some of the fish and flew off. The three children carried the big fish back to their home where their mother cooked enough for dinner



Photo by Joan Mraz

Mary Savery relaxes at tea for oral history participants.

appreciation luncheon in March at **Lee Johnson's** Alki condominium. When the video is complete early this summer, another event will be scheduled to celebrate its completion and to thank the narrators.

for their family and the neighbors, and had some left to can.

Chester loved to watch the eagles high in a large sequoia tree across the street. He used binoculars to watch the five eaglets this spring and, just before he died, they were off and flying, swooping and soaring, as in Chief Seattle's speech, "there is no death, merely a change of worlds."

His spirit will live on in the water lapping on this shore, in the rocks on the beach, in the wind beneath the eagle's wings and in the hearts of all who loved him.

In addition to his daughter and his wife of 60 years; Chester is survived by children **Linda Blackinton, Daniel Blackinton, and Eileen Adison** and grandchildren, **Stacy Thurston, Melissa Hagen, Braedan Blackinton** and **Caitlin Blackinton**.

900 Shoreliners visit Museum

More than 900 children, teachers, parents and chaperones from the Shoreline School District visited the Log House Museum in January and February.

The district sends all its third-grade classes to the museum each year. More than 20 other schools have also sent classes to visit the museum and study "The Spirit Returns," the current exhibit.

Volunteers who help with the 8- and 9-year-olds are **Kay Whelan, Marge Saffer, Else De Palma, Marilyn Whittendale, Carol Vincent and Joan Mraz**

"It takes special personality traits to work with that many 8- and 9-year-olds in such a confined space on such a whirlwind schedule," Museum Director Pat Filer said. "The volunteers play a very influential role in what the children take away from the Museum visit."

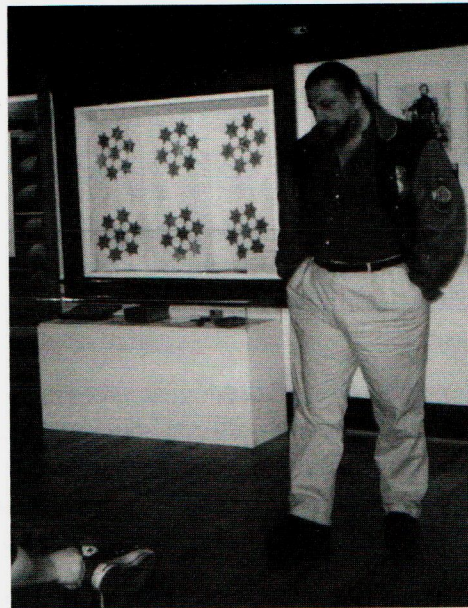
So anyone who likes a roomful of squirmy, wet children, and can answer 20 questions a minute including "Where is the bathroom?" and "Why can't we go upstairs?" may join the tour docent volunteer team. A minimum of two volunteers for each tour is needed to make the visits possible. Interested? Call Pat at the Museum, (206) 938-5293

We used to go to Scotty Wilbur's grocery store on the corner of 60th and Alki and buy candy. The store had a wood floor with some cracks in it, and any coins that were dropped would fall through. After hours, sometimes we would crawl under the store and find the coins in the sand. Next day, more candy!

— Don (Babe) Smith

Teens study Duwamish

Students from the Environmental Justice Symposium for Teens toured the Log House Museum's "The Spirit Returns" exhibit with Museum Director Pat Filer on March 9. After the tour, James Rasmussen, SWSHS trustee and member of the Duwamish Tribal Council, gave insights into the importance of tribal recognition, and the students watched the oral history video "Duwamish: Still Here." They also visited the Duwamish Archaeological Site at Terminal 107 on the Duwamish Waterway and the site of the future Duwamish Cultural Longhouse.



Sesquicentennial ideas sought

The Southwest Seattle Historical Society is looking for people who attended the re-dedication of the Alki monument during Seattle's Centennial events in 1951.

The obelisk-shaped stone monument was placed by the old Stockade Hotel in 1901 to commemorate the 1851 landing of the original Seattle settlers. It was later moved to the Alki Promenade at the foot of 63rd Avenue S.W. At the 1951 re-dedication, a time capsule was placed inside, to be opened in 2051.

We are looking for persons who attended the ceremony; photographs or newspaper articles of the celebration; and descriptions of contributions to the time capsule. The goal is a temporary or traveling exhibit regarding the Centennial events at the monument.

Business memories to be shared in August

The Log House Museum Long-Timers' newest project, "Business of Southwest Seattle," is in the design, layout and printing phase.

Excerpts from the remembrances that have been collected are scattered on page edges in this edition of Footprints. This Memory Book project is underwritten by a grant from the City of Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods.

Publication of the book is tentatively scheduled for Aug. 16.

Memorial gift honors Henry 'Harry' Couden

The Southwest Seattle Historical Society has received a gift in memory of Henry N. Couden from the Elliott N. Couden Family.

"Known as 'Harry' to all who knew him, he was a former West Seattle resident who left his mark here. He moved to Lafayette, Calif., 50 years ago," said Elliott N. Couden, his cousin.

Henry N. Couden died at age 89 on Feb. 24, 2001. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy.

At a recent brainstorming meeting artist **Diana Fairbanks** described plans for a mural depicting the landing at Alki. Museum volunteer **Penny Earnest** suggested adding a bronze plaque to the monument with the names of the women in the original landing party – now listed only as "and wife."

A re-enactment of the landing at Alki starring the Sea Scout ship "Yankee Clipper" as the "Exact," the schooner that brought the first settlers and a bike/car tour map marking and describing historic sites in the area also were proposed at the meeting organized by the Alki Community Council and SWSHS.

The Alki Community Council is soliciting original artwork to be used in a poster. The artwork should celebrate the heritage of Alki and its contribution to the history of Seattle. For more information, contact **Tony Fragada** at (206) 935-7727 or alkibeacon@hotmail.com. Celebrations, events and projects are being planned citywide, and grants are available for worthy projects. Anyone interested in planning or developing projects may call the Log House Museum at (206) 938-5293.

Watch the West Seattle Herald's "On the Go" section for news of future meetings.

New manual explains exhibit to volunteers

The Volunteer Manual, a comprehensive information guide for Museum volunteers, is available. It provides detailed information about artifacts in "The Spirit Returns."

Regular volunteers will each receive a copy, and a reference copy will be kept at the docent desk for occasional volunteers.

The Log House Museum is actively seeking volunteer docents and gift shop attendants.

Training is provided by Museum Director **Pat Filer** or the SWSHS volunteer coordinator. High school or college students are encouraged to volunteer at the museum for community service hour requirements.

On the corner of 63rd and Alki was Alki's largest grocery store and meat market until 1927. It was owned by a man named Hoskins. In 1929, it was sold to a German family named Elkins. The butcher was Guy Wilmont. He had the trademark of a good butcher – a missing finger!
— Stan Coombes

Artifacts, author enliven Speaker Series

Arrowheads, baskets, rugs, ceramic vases, masks and old firearms were among the artifacts brought to the February Speakers Series show-and-tell program.

The audience provided the show, and **Paula Johnson** from Paragon Research Associates told about the artifacts they brought.

The March speaker was **Brenda Wilbee**, author of the popular *Sweetbriar* series about the life and experiences of Louisa Boren Denny, one of the Alki pioneers.

Brenda explained that her interest in historical novels has been a lifelong love. As a young girl, her family moved around a lot and her first friend in each new community was the library. She was always fascinated with history



Paula Johnson of Paragon Research and colleague Matthew Letourneau study stone points brought to the Museum for Artifact Identification Night in February.



Photos by Pat Filer

Rachel Storz has author Brenda Wilbee autograph her *Sweetbriar* books.

and remembers reading almost every book in that section at each library. One of her favorites was *Blazing the Way* by Emily Inez Denny, who told the story of the Alki pioneers. She took a writing class as a young mother, and her instructor encouraged her to submit some of her writings to magazines.

Eventually, she decided to focus on the story of one of the Alki pioneers who had so enchanted her as a young girl, Louisa Boren Denny. She began a series, which she titled *Sweetbriar*, because Louisa Denny was called the Sweetbriar Bride.

The series is now made up of six novels which span Louisa's life from the time she left Illinois to come to Puget Sound on the Oregon Trail, to her life as David Denny's wife and their experiences in the early days of Seattle. The first three in the series are out of print, but the last three are available at the Log House Museum's Gift Shop. Also featured in the gift shop are Brenda's original Louisa Denny dolls and note cards with images and quotes from the novels.

Her next project will be a three-part series on the life of missionary pioneer Narcissa Whitman who was massacred in the Walla Walla area.

Thanks to the contributors to this issue of *Footprints*:

- Julie Burrows
- JonLee Joseph
- Merrilee Hagen
- Marcy Johnsen
- Pat Filer
- Joan Mraz
- Carol Vincent
- Deborah Mendenhall
- Randy Nelson

Ann Holiday,
Editor

Accreditation is in the works

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The Log House Museum is taking steps toward accreditation by the American Association of Museums (AAM). Achieving accreditation gives a museum status, respect and professional acknowledgement of its standards and practices, says Museum Director **Pat Filer**.

According to AAM guidelines, accreditation

Assistant joins Museum staff

Patti Quirk has been named to the newly created position of part-time assistant to the Museum Director for four months.

A history major who recently moved here from South Carolina, and who served as office manager in her previous job, Patti was selected from among several enthusiastic and highly qualified applicants because her qualifications and interests very closely mirrored those that would be needed in this assistant position.

Among her duties will be compiling and updating the Log House Museum database. She will also work every Saturday, a day on which it has been difficult to secure volunteers.

Funding from the State Grant allowed the creation of the part-time assistant position for a four-month project.

by the American Association of Museums is the field's primary vehicle for quality assurance and public accountability. Accredited status provides credible evidence that the museum not only fulfills its purpose and attains the goals that it proclaims in its mission, but does so in accordance with the highest professional practices and standards.

To be accredited, a museum must be "an organized and permanent non-profit institution, essentially educational or aesthetic in purpose, with professional staff, which owns and utilizes tangible objects, cares for them and exhibits them to the public on a regular schedule."

The standards used in the evaluation to determine accreditation include specific questions and proof about governing authority, board of trustees, staff, membership, finances, physical facilities, collections, conservation, security, exhibits, educational programs, purposes and future plans.

The process of achieving accreditation provides a thoughtful framework, through self-study and peer review, for assessing how well a museum meets the current standards and continues to engage in institutional improvement.

"I hope that you can see that this is an important long-term goal for the Museum," Filer told the Board of Trustees at a recent meeting.

FOOTPRINTS

Newsletter of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society
c/o Birthplace of Seattle Log House Museum
3003 61st Ave. S.W., Seattle, WA 98116

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